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PEYTON'S
PEERLESS PEONIES

SEASON 1930

THE
WORLD'S BEST
PEONIES

BOTH OLD AND NEW

GEORGE W. PEYTON
WINDY HILL GARDENS

RAPIDAN, VIRGINIA

J. W. FERGUSON & SONS
PRINTERS
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

THE WORLD'S BEST PEONIES— BOTH OLD AND NEW

In the following pages an attempt will be made to give the writer's unbiased opinion on the varieties mentioned, especially in the light of the 1930 season which has been one to try the souls of all who grow flowers. Practically no rain has fallen of any consequence since last fall, yet in spite of the fact that peonies had only about a fourth of their normal supply, in most cases they showed little damage from its lack, and some varieties made the best bloom I have ever seen on them. Owing to the ground becoming quite hard, the late risers had some difficulty in getting through and in many cases had to be helped. Some even had their main stems to rot and made secondary stems a month or more late, but even these frequently bloomed.

The first peony to bloom this year was *anomala* on April 21, and from that date until June 15 there were peonies in bloom every day practically a two months full season. We could have an even longer season if we planted more largely of the early blooming species. These early bloomers are nearly always of rather dwarf growth with foliage of great variety of shape, from the very finely cut leaves of *tenuifolia* to the very broad leaves of *Messagere*, with stems often colored with red or pink that make very attractive plants even without their blooms. These are usually single and of all colors, even pale yellow, though the pinks predominate, often quite different from those found in the *sinensis* varieties. Of these early flowering peonies very few are available to the buyer. We find *anomala*, a very fine red single quite tall, and several of the *Wittmanniana* hybrids, *Avant Garde*, a smoky pink, *Le Printemps*, a creamy white, *Messagere*, also white with much yellow in it, and a few of the old *officinalis* such as *rubra plena*, our fine old red, and *rosea plena*, quite a nice pink, offered in some lists.

The season was a notable one in my garden, for I was able to observe a number of the very new ones on fairly well-established plants, and of these I shall endeavor to give some account in this paper.

First we shall take up the double varieties, for after all they spell peony to the majority. There are a number of the old ones which have never been replaced by the new and that will still hold their own for years to come. *EDULIS SUPERBA* we must still grow. There is no other peony of its exact dark pink color and its early bloom and delightful fragrance cannot be done without. If we give *WHITLEYI* (*QUEEN VICTORIA*) good care and cultivation its white globular bloom tinted pink is really fine when it first opens, and it still leads as a cut flower variety. Many are much attracted by the "watermelon pink" of *HUMEI* and *FRAGRANS* is noted for its abundant and fragrant blooms of quite small size of a dark pink. These three are the oldest peonies in cultivation and they may well be omitted unless it is a matter of sentiment or plenty of room.

FESTIVA MAXIMA will be grown as long as peonies are grown in our day. It has a great attraction for me with its large blooms of immaculate white, which is only enhanced by the few red spots on its inner petals. It should be one of the first peonies planted in any garden.

The first peony I ever planted was BARONESS SCHROEDER, and I think that if I had just a dollar to spend on one peony, it would be spent on the Baroness. Its large fragrant blooms of white with a thin pink veil over all, are profusely borne on a plant of handsome foliage and good stems in late midseason. DUCHESSE DE NEMOURS truly belongs to the nobility, and its broad flat blooms of white with some yellow in the center, all given a cooling touch by its fascinating greenish tinge, have a beauty all their own. Would that it had a better stem. A like remark may be made about another member of the nobility, the DUC DE WELLINGTON, white with a pale yellow center all frequently overlaid with a glow of pink. The Duke has been recommended for the discard, but if it does as well for others as it does for me I do not see the "why" of it. This was an off year for our friend ALBATRE (AVALANCHE), but in spite of its occasionally taking a holiday we cannot do without its great white blooms whose central petals are frequently edged with red. One of the most beautiful of all, MADAME DE VERNEVILLE, as usual did her duty, and for those who wish a good free blooming cheap (only in price) peony the Madame will fill the bill with its globular white bloom tinted pink and spotted red.

COURONNE D'OR with its distinctive ring of golden stamens is one of the best of the later whites. BOULE DE NEIGE and MONSIEUR DUPONT are two quite similar flowers, though blooming at different times, white with red spots and stamens showing. For an excellent creamy white of tall growth, JAMES KELWAY cannot be surpassed in the moderate priced group. One of the nicest of the later whites is MADAME CROUSSE.

MADAME EMILE LEMOINE with its large full rose type blooms of white tinted pink, on tall stiff stems, late, occupies a place very close to the top. A beautiful creamy white which must be mentioned, even if it does not bloom very often, is MARIE LEMOINE. There are few peonies that can equal it when we have in all their faultless perfection its immense creamy white blooms which come very late in the season and so fail for us many years.

There are two adjectives in the English language which I always hesitate to use in my descriptions, "lovely" and "wonderful," both very forceful words when properly used, but which rather pall on our sensibilities on account of the overworking of the words by the general public, usually in places for which they are entirely unfit. However, there are a number of peonies to which these adjectives may be applied with the best good taste. These peonies with their immaculate purity usually slightly veiled with shading of pink which serves to enhance their beauty, seem to me to be flowers essentially to be loved and therefore lovely in their nature, and we always truly wonder at their beauty which is such as only a Divine Being could create. Such a peony is MARIE JACQUIN or, as it is also called, BRIDESMAID or WATER LILY, a semi-double of white veiled pink which sometimes makes beautiful full double blooms. This peony should find

a place in every garden. Another peony with a delicate beauty all its own is OCTAVIE DEMAY, a very pale pink with a collar of rather small petals lighter in shade and a crown of broader petals like the guards. It is of very dwarf growth, beautiful foliage with leaves to the ground. It is very early to bloom and very late to get up. UMBELLATA ROSEA is a medium pink with lighter collar that wins its place by its earliness and landscape value. MADAME CALOT is a tall upright grower, very dependable with delicate shadings of pink and is one of the most reliable we have. EUGENIE VERDIER, tall and stately, of a light hydrangea pink, is one of the very best. REINE HORTENSE, which also bears the name PRESIDENT TAFT, is truly either a queen or a president, whichever name you choose to use. It has large light rose pink blooms touched with red markings. Slightly darker and later is SARAH BERNHARDT, whose divinity is unquestioned. CLAIRE DUBOIS, large, late, of bright rose pink with some blue in it, has good stems and is quite dependable. Here we must mention two peonies that belong to the spectacular group. The first is GIGANTEA (whose real name is Lamartine), a full double of immense size, bright rose pink with lighter tips, blooming quite early. The second is MONSIEUR JULES ELIE, a globular peony whose central ball of petals grows until it completely overshadows the guards. It is a rose pink silvered all over. Many think this the finest peony grown, none excepted. The stems of both these might be better. If we like a smaller edition, we should plant MADAME DUCCEL, smaller bloom, dwarfer grower, better stem.

JEANNE D'ARC, with which GOLDEN HARVEST is almost identical, is a beautiful peony with broad light pink guards, a collar often very yellow, of narrower petals and a crown of the same color of the guards but often stained almost entirely with crimson. PHILOMELE is very much darker of similar build, while GLOIRE DE CHARLES GOMBAULT is a weak stemmed peony of many shades of pink in its make-up, almost a sphere in form. There are two old reds which will probably always hold their heads high among the elect, FELIX CROUSSE, ruby red, splendid grower, excellent bloomer of moderate size, and ADOLPHE ROUSSEAU, of taller growth, darker color, with blooms that are sometimes single, semi-double and full double, all in bloom at once on the same plant. LOUIS VAN HOUTTE, LORD ROSEBURY, MR. MANNING, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, and ANEMONEFLORA RUBRA are all reds that while they do not equal the above, yet if we wish good, cheap varieties they will fill the bill.

We should not close the list of our old favorites without saying a word about four peonies that are very similar in coloring and bloom, all being of a dark pink with much purple on it, immense very double flowers and quite spectacular, which makes them very prominent in the garden, and also many like them very much. These ponies are ALEXANDRIANA, LIVINGSTONE, MADAME FOREL, MADAME GEISSLER.

On the dividing line of the centuries whose date of introduction is uncertain, we find that scion of the nobility, LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF, once lost to the world, but found where it had been safely kept in the garden of my friend Mr. Gumm, a peony of great beauty, medium height, usually semi-double, a light pink fading to white. A cluster of blooms of which the center is large,

almost quite double, with several semi-double side blooms whose color will be a shade or two deeper, is one of the most beautiful sights in peonydom. Stepping over the brink into the marvelous twentieth century, we find an array of glorious flowers from which it is hard to choose. In my garden, all peonies are measured by the standard of KELWAY'S GLORIOUS, which stands at the top. It has good strong stems, beautiful foliage, blooms every year regardless of the weather, increases well and has immense great glorious blooms of glistening white of excellent form which are streaked red in the bud on the outside of the guard petals, but this red is not apparent inside, and its fragrance is truly glorious. When the first bloom of this flower was cut by Mr. James Kelway, of Kelway & Son, a helper who was with him said, "Isn't it glorious?" Hence its name. Many peonies have high sounding names to which they do not live up, but not so this one. It is all its name implies, and I think the very best peony that has ever been produced. Kelway & Son have introduced about a thousand named varieties of peonies, and while probably half or more of them should never have been named, yet among them we find the world's best in every class. EXQUISITE is a beautiful loose built bright rose pink. PHYLLIS KELWAY is a semi-double light rose pink that shades lighter to the center, very large with splendid stems. A very beautiful flower. None of their newer doubles can equal these as I have seen them. His JAMES WILLIAM KELWAY is a very large purplish pink, loosely built, that is tall and showy. MRS. JAMES KELWAY is heralded as the largest white yet produced. So far it has failed to mature its blooms with me. BEWITCHING is a rather distinctively colored pink shading lighter to the center. It is entirely different from any other peony and is quite attractive.

Of all the names famous in horticulture, none can surpass that of Lemoine, of Nancy, France. While his activities have not been confined to any one flower or shrub in particular, yet we are especially indebted to him for many of the most glorious peonies that have ever been produced. While his peonies are as a general thing hard to establish and peculiarly susceptible to disease, yet when they reach the age of four or five years, they almost invariably produce flowers of such beauty of coloring, perfection of form and vigor of growth, which is often lacking in their earlier years. we forget their past weaknesses in the splendour of the perfect plant and place them at the head of the list. For some reason he has not introduced any singles or Japanese type peonies except in the early flowering hybrids. All of his peonies are full doubles and usually in the lighter shades of white and pale pink. Topping the list of peonies at 9.9 stands LE CYGNE, The Swan, with its perfect bloom of creamy white, immense in size, symmetrical in shape, of splendid carriage and delicate perfume, yet with us usually very sparing of these as it seems to be very sensitive to weather conditions, though an early bloomer. By many peony growers of the more Northern States, SOLANGE, which perhaps may be freely translated as an Angel of the Earth, is considered the finest peony. With us it carries out its name very well. for seldom do we see an earthly angel, so we do not have as often as we would like the perfect bloom of Solange, yet when it does come we view it with the same awe and reverence we would an angel, for its sublime beauty. Its coloring is indescribable, a creamy white with much pink in it, deepening to salmon and tea

shades at the base of the petals and in the center. It is really the nearest approach to an all yellow peony we have, as the general effect of an unfaded flower is light yellow. The buds should be covered with small paper bags before they start to open and the bags taken off only when they get full of the opening flower. Then we shall see a bloom of such beauty that we never dreamed of. ALSACE LORRAINE is a semi-double flower with some of the coloring of Solange. A sure bloomer and most attractive.

LA LORRAINE is another from which we do not often get perfect bloom, for practically all the stock in this country is more or less diseased. When it becomes well established it will usually overcome this and produce its immense creamy white flowers with some pink shading, very fine and long lasting. Practically the same may be said about BAYADERE, which is somewhat similar to Alsace Lorraine, but larger, I think. LA FRANCE, a most vigorous, healthy grower, is another beauty that only matures its blooms occasionally. It is called apple blossom pink and is a great exhibition flower. ENCHANTERESSE, a very tall late and large white, is subject to the same criticism, but their perfection is rarely equalled when they do bloom well. The most dependable of the so-called yellow peonies is PRIMEVERE, which has none of these faults. Healthy, vigorous, free flowering from the start, it has creamy white guards and yellow collar which fades in strong sunlight. It is a fine addition to any garden. ISOLINE is of sturdier growth and much the same coloring, but its flowers are not so attractive to me, as it gets very ragged after a day or two. Coming to Lemoine's later introductions, we find his ALICE HARDING, which he thinks is his best introduction, a plant of beautiful growth, sturdy and upright, splendid foliage, with large guard petals of light pink surrounding a central rosette of creamy white petals with pink shadings, a flower of uncommon beauty. With us it is certainly the superior of Le Cygne as it is a sure bloomer. However, its flower is not perfection like Le Cygne. Many consider ARGENTINE a better flower than Alice Harding. With me it will not always open its immense creamy white flowers of unusual substance, borne on stems of medium height and great strength. In the North it should rate 9.5 at least. Here we should mention GENEVIEVE and ALESIA, both somewhat similar in flower but with stems that are not so good as Argentine. They should rate very high in the North. ODALISQUE is what might be described as a Le Cygne of lighter build. It has the same symmetrical arrangement of its creamy white petals, but is not so double and opens its blooms excellently here. It is of exceptional beauty. MADAME ESCARY is another of these creamy whites of lighter build that is not so dependable as Odalisque. SYLVIANE is noted for its immense creamy white petals that are much fringed at the ends, giving the flower a very feathery appearance. An extremely large bloom of white with the central petals strongly marked red with a pink sheen at first, borne on good tall stems, healthy and vigorous, is DENISE. A most attractive flower. Pinks varying in shades from very pale to quite deep are BEAUMARCHAIS, ROSINE, DULCINEE, FAUSTINE, ELIANE, and GILBERTE. They have not yet proved good doers for me, though I have hopes on better established plants. SATIN ROSE, a 1929 introduction, sounds very attractive. It made a small bloom on a one-year plant this spring. RUBICON is a very dark pink of the same vintage.

Coming to the greatest peony expert of his day, that other very famous Frenchman, who has so lately died, Auguste Dessert, we find his peonies to be splendid performers from the start, usually healthy, vigorous and free flowering with a few exceptions. His most famous peony is THERESE, almost universally conceded to be the best pink yet produced. It is pale rose pink shading lighter to the center, immense in size, vigorous in growth, excellent foliage, an outstanding flower. Hot sun is its only enemy. Probably the most exquisitely colored of any double peony is TOURANGELLE, a very pale pink shading deeper to the center, a flower of ethereal beauty. Stems not so good. JEANNOT, a tall upright peony with pale rose pink flowers deepening to the center, shaded violet, is a variety of great beauty and elegance of coloring. GINETTE, of pale pink with some crimson markings, dwarfish growth, makes a plant of conspicuous beauty. LAURA DESSERT is a so-called yellow peony quite similar to Primevere in coloring, more upright stems, but not so dependable and lacking in the charm of Primevere. With very large blooms of almost pure pink, SOUVENIR DE LOUIS BIGOT occupies a place near the top. Its stem is not as strong as it might be, but it is a very fine flower. RAOUL DESSERT, with a much better stem, is a shade different and has a flower of distinct form. Beautiful. MONSIEUR MARTIN CAHUSAC is the darkest red of any peony, is called The Black Peony, and as such has a place no other can fill.

MADAME JULES DESSERT is white with shadings of yellow and salmon at the base of the petals, very beautiful. AUGUSTE DESSERT is a very much talked of variety. Is it pink or red? I say it is light red and a notable spot in the garden. Foliage turns red very early. Excellent bloomer on established plants.

Since 1923 Dessert's peonies have been disseminated by Doriat. There are many very beautiful varieties among them. To me the most attractive of the 1924 to 1927 introductions is NANETTE, an early bloomer, pale pink shading to white, loosely built, excellent stems and carriage. It should be a very popular peony. CHARLOT is one of the most showy in the garden, very tall silvery lilac pink shading deeper to the center. MADAME EDOUARD DORIAT is a tall loose built white, very different from Nanette. It has not always opened well. It is a late midseason bloomer. MADELON is a beautifully colored pink that only this year has given me its perfect blooms. A beautiful flower. INSPECTEUR LAVERGNE is a new red with some brown in it, that will appeal to all of us who love Felix Crousse. Very similar in growth, but earlier and of better color. ELISA is a light pink of rather loose build that appeals to all. RITA is much later, of better stems and darker pink, more massive bloom. Splendid. NINON is an attractive carmine pink peony that I like very much. DIRECTEUR URSAT, HENRI CORE and DENIS DEBATENE are rather conical shaped peonies, each having several shades of pink in its make-up and the first being the lightest and the last the darkest and to me the most attractive. These peonies will appeal to the many who like these forms and colorings. They are worthy of a place in any collection of moderate size. AVIATEUR LINDBERGH is a very brilliant loosely built red which I liked this year much better than before. I have hopes that it will prove an excellent red. ELISE RENAULT is a large silvery pink peony whose bloom is almost a perfect sphere, in fact more so than any peony I recall. They are neither ragged nor too closely packed.

It is in a class with Gigantea and Monsieur Jules Elie and should prove a great seller. It has very fine stems and is an early mid-season bloomer. MADAME EMILE DEBATENE is on the order of Souvenir de Louis Bigot, lighter colored foliage, darker and more fiery pink, possibly a smaller bloom. It has much value I believe. MADAME CLAUDE TAIN is very similar to Baroness Schroeder and so far it seems just as good, which is saying a great deal. It has its place, and that a high one. LOUIS BARTHELOT is very late and a perfect ball of white. I was much pleased with it this year. CHABANES LA PALICE is a tall cherry red edged white. It is very showy. In my judgment one of the very best peonies in my garden and one destined to rank at the top, if I may say so, after a two years experience, is ODILE, which Desert says is Tourangelles brought to a point of perfection. As it grows it reminds me very much of Le Cygne, being of splendid upright growth, medium height, a plant of distinctive carriage. Its bloom reminds me again of Le Cygne in form, having that same symmetrical arrangement of petals, a flower of perfect form. Its color is slightly lighter than Tourangelles with me, but exquisite. I expect great things from this peony when it gets to be well known. Among the 1929 introductions, there is one said to be the largest peony ever produced, called JACQUES DESERT. Of course it is pink. Its future will be watched with a great deal of interest, especially as it has two rivals for the honor it claims, both introduced in Holland by Van der Meer, MISS ECKART and ZUS BRAUN, the former a dark pink and the latter a white with pink dots. Which will win? I bet on Jacques.

Millet has introduced several double varieties. JEANNE GAUDICHAU and MARGUERITE GAUDICHAU are good moderate priced pinks. MADAME GAUDICHAU is remarkable for the very dark red coloring of its stems and leaves, which color persists for a number of weeks after it comes up. Its bloom is very fine, of almost as dark a red as Cahusac and better form. However, it is a very shy bloomer. Its coloring alone gives it a worthwhile place. His latest doubles are SOUVENIR DE A. MILLET, a tall fiery red much like Karl Rosenfeld, earlier here and taller, and two which Millet says were produced by crossing a Japanese type with a Chinese peony. REINE BARONET is a tyrian pink shading lighter in the center, loosely built and medium size. It is a remarkably free grower and bloomer, a good landscape peony. Sometimes I think it very beautiful. MAMAN MILLET, named after his wife, Millet considers his masterpiece and one of the finest ever produced. It is a loosely built very pale pink shading to white at the center, very beautiful. It produces immense blooms. It is worthy of a high place in any collection. Riviere's name has been writ large in the annals of peonydom by his PHILIPPE RIVOIRE, the red peony combining the best qualities of a peony to a greater extent than any other red. It is a good grower, a good bloomer, has beautiful form like a big hybrid perpetual rose, the same delicious fragrance and excellent color. It is such a late riser that we should always see that the ground does not get too hard over it for it to break through. MADEMOISELLE JEANNE RIVIERE is one of those lovely pale pink peonies that we all like. MADAME EMILE DUPRAZ is a very fine pink of darker coloring. He has a new red SOUVENIR DE L'EXPOSITION DE LONDRES and a china pink VILLE DE

LYON which I shall watch with interest. His SOUVENIR DE MADAME COLETTE VEILLET, if it can survive its name, is very much like Madame Calot, maybe not so good.

Van Leeuwen, of Holland has given us GENERAL GORGAS, a very tall, very large white marked with red, a prolific bloomer and greatly admired by many. His new one, NOBILITY, will be the object of close scrutiny.

Goos and Koenemann have given us some very fine peonies. BIEBRICH, a late soft pink, opening excellently, is very valuable to us and a fine peony. GRETCHEN, white tinted pink, and LORCH, white tinted yellow, are splendid. EMMCHEN is another similar to Baroness Schroeder, white veiled pink, which entitles it to high rank. It is a later bloomer. It has the points of a peony of high rating. STRASSBURG is a silvery pink of the spectacular kind, flat opening of loose build, very large. They have lately put out a number of new ones which I do not yet know.

When we turn to our American introductions, the name of Brand comes to the fore, for he has put out the greatest number of extra fine varieties in this country. Of these, MARTHA BULLOCH is probably the most famous. Very large, very tall, very pink, it seems to do well in all parts of the country. Many, however, are unwilling to yield it the palm, but put PHOEBE CARY at the top. Not so tall, of a lighter pink, it is its rival in size and performance. JUDGE BERRY is about the best light pink we have that is very early. It is a large flat bloom of great beauty. In reds, Mr. Brand leads the world. His RICHARD CARVEL is by all odds the best of the early reds. LONGFELLOW and LORA DEXHEIMER almost tie for high honors in the midseason brilliant red class, with WINNIFRED DOMME a close second, though not as free a bloomer. MARY BRAND is a dark brilliant crimson and ranks among the best. CHARLES McKELLIP is a late red that for color and performance should stand at the top. When we look for good clear reds we must come to these peonies as heading the list. Other fine reds are BENJAMIN FRANKLIN and DAVID HARUM, the first tall and medium sized and the second quite large of its own distinctive shape and color.

ADDIELANCHEA is a fine, massive white, generally too late for us. One of the most beautiful whites is ELIZABETH BARNETT BROWNING, which also is a poor bloomer with us in Virginia. LUETTA PFEIFFER is a loose built pale pink shading white that is very appealing. This year I had the opportunity to observe many of his late creations. These are almost all late bloomers which usually spells failure with us, but while I had no plant of these over two years old, several gave me very fine bloom. The first to open was ELLA CHRISTIANSEN, very tall, very vigorous, very stiff stems, very large medium pink that was most popular. It will be one of our future peonies. MRS. FRANK BEACH, rather dwarf with flat opening blooms of ivory white shading deeper to the center made a most favorable impression. MRS. DEAN FUNK opened its blooms beautifully and at the tail end of the season, PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, which was so long in coming up I thought it dead, finally came along and on a small plant made a beautiful pink bloom. I hope it will always open as it did this year. COMMANDER opened a huge red bloom, but not as refined or as good color as others mentioned above. MRS. JOHN M. KLEITSCH always astonishes me by the vigor

of its growth and has opened its immense lavender pink blooms well, but this year fell a victim to the thrips, as did VICTORY CHATEAU THIERRY, which is a beautiful shade of pale pink. MYRTLE GENTRY gave us a glimpse of its beautiful coloring, but MRS. A. M. BRAND has always consistently refused to open. While the dry weather somewhat spoiled HANSINA BRAND, I have high hopes that it will be good here. I hope soon to have all of Mr. Brand's on well-established plants and then I trust that my tale will be a different one.

It seems to me that Mr. Betscher's MODELLE should be a high rated peony, for it is very charming in its coloring of white tinted pink and it has fine foliage and carriage.

Rosefield, or, as he was formerly known, Rosenfield, has put out some excellent peonies. KARL ROSENFELD is about the best and most brilliant of the cheaper reds. Full double, excellent stems and color. GENE STRATTON PORTER is an excellent white that is a little late for Virginia, and HARRY L. RICHARDSON is a late blooming red that opens well.

Of the Franklin peonies, MABEL L. FRANKLIN is a fine light pink, splendid carriage and worth its rating. JUNE DAY will probably make the best mark of any of them, a fine rose pink, very outstanding. W. F. CHRISTMAN is another excellent light pink. RED BIRD is in a class by itself, an anemone bloom of distinctive red. Mr. Franklin has a number of new ones that will certainly be heard from before long. Of the hundred or more peonies introduced by Terry, the great majority of them are mediocre, but there are several that deserve a place in the best company. SARAH CARSTENSEN is one of the best, large light rose pink marked crimson, it is a flower of distinction, rather dwarf in growth. STEPHANIE is a large loose built light pink that is very beautiful. MISS HENINGER, which Mr. Bonnewitz thought one of the best in the world, is a very large very light pink fading to white, quite a fine grower with excellent stems. It is exactly like the plant of VERA TERRY that I have, so unless these two are really identical one or the other is wrong. What about it, you who have both? GROVER CLEVELAND is about the largest red I know and a flower of perfect form.

Richardson's WALTER FAXON is by many considered the best peony of American introduction. It is probably the purest pink in color of any. It is very good grower and bloomer and of good size. Its coloring is truly marvelous. It is the only peony of its color and should have a place in every garden. MILTON HILL is lighter pink and equally as beautiful, but, alas, how seldom does it bloom for me. Last year perfection itself, this year literally nothing.

Hollis was a great hybridizer and put out a large number of peonies. Many of them are mediocre, but there are a number of good ones. His JENNIE E. RICHARDSON is one of the very best light pinks if you get the right one. MAUD L. RICHARDSON is another very excellent tall growing light pink. His CLARA ANDERSON is a very fine white. Probably the most famous peony ever sent out by an American is Shaylor's MRS. EDWARD HARDING, long called the Hundred Dollar Peony, but now selling for a far more modest sum. It is a tall, very pure white of great perfection. Its fault seems to be in making too large a number of small growths and so small blooms. At its

best it is one of the finest. GEORGIANA SHAYLOR, a rather dwarf grower of fine carriage with very large rose pink blooms marked crimson, is one of the best on the market. ROSE SHAYLOR, a tall growing light pink, is often of exceptional quality. MARY WOODBURY SHAYLOR is very dwarf in growth and what I call a peaches and cream peony as its coloring reminds me much of that combination. MINNIE SHAYLOR is a fine growing light pink semi-double that is particularly appealing. CORNELIA SHAYLOR is a very tall grower with a large conical bloom of light pink, almost white, shading darker to the center, that is remarkably fine. There are others, and all of them are good.

You may depend on it that nothing that bears the name of Thurlow will be unworthy, so that if you want a peony, and Thurlow is the originator, you may know that you can buy it with the greatest confidence that it will be all it is said to be. It is hard to say which is the best. PRESIDENT WILSON, good sturdy stems, with very large flowers of pale rose, is worthy the distinguished name it bears. EDWIN C. SHAW is a darker rose pink shading deeper to the center that is just as good. THOMAS C. THURLOW often grows great blooms that look like enormous rosebuds of a beautiful light pink that are entrancingly beautiful. JAMES R. MANN is the darkest pink of them all and very fine. NYMPHOEA is, as its name implies, a water lily like white that is quite distinct. PRIDE OF ESSEX is a large loose built light pink that is hard to beat. CHERRY HILL is extremely early, a most brilliant red, very tall and easily the most conspicuous thing in the garden when in bloom.

Professor Saunders' GRACE LOOMIS is a white that is hard to beat when it makes its blooms, but it is so late that here it usually fails. His MATILDA LEWIS is a semi-double very dark red that is of great value. SILVIA SAUNDERS is a semi-double light pink that is exquisite in its daintiness. We are all looking forward to the time when his hybrids of *sinensis*, with the early flowering species giving us a better race of early flowering peonies, will be plentiful enough to make them available to all.

Gumm's LILLIAN GUMM is a beautiful rose pink that is rated one of the best. His GRACE OTT is a good loose built red, and GOLDEN DAWN one of the near yellows, is also excellent. Judge Vories' NANCY DOLMAN is very spectacular in size and a good colored pink. Its bloom is very massive and quite late, yet it has always opened well for me. FRANKIE CURTIS is white with a pale pink globular center on the order of Monsieur Jules Elie. It is destined to be a great cut flower variety. LADY KATE is a light pink of great size and an excellent grower. Of the *Secor* peonies, I can say little as they have not opened satisfactorily for me except in a few instances. MARY C. WEDGE is a good red peony. While SOPS OF WINE does not have a very clear color, yet it has generally bloomed well for me, though very late. NINA SECOR is a beautiful white that fails often.

A new red that is quite showy and a free bloomer is Oleson's JANES OLESON. Sass' FLORENCE MACBETH is a very delicate shade of pale rose pink that shades darker to the center, exquisite, but usually fails with us on account of its lateness. GRACE BATSON is another addition to the Madame Geissler class, an immense silvery rose pink, excellent grower and fine for those who like the color. They are many.

Dr. J. H. Neeley, of Paulding, Ohio, has given us three peonies that are now in commerce that are fine in their class. PRIDE OF PAULDING is a very strong, sturdy grower, but is so late that it does not often open well for me its fine flesh pink blooms. FLOW'ER OF EDEN is just the other way, being a tall fine grower, midseason, with large rose pink blooms that are very attractive, loosely built. It is an exceptionally free bloomer. GLORIANA is darker, very tall, with very large blooms that also open well in Virginia. I like it best of all. Dr. Neeley himself never sells anything and his peonies only find their way into commerce through his grower friends. He has a number of new ones that we hope will soon find their way out. There are three new peonies that commemorate the long friendship between Dr. Neeley, Judge Snook and Mr. Ward Welsh, one WARD WELSH, originated by Dr. Neeley and described as a glorified Solange, has not yet bloomed for me. The other two, originated by Mr. Welsh and named by him just before his death for his two friends and now being disseminated by his firm, Good & Reese, are both white peonies. JUDGE SNOOK did not mature its bloom for me this year as it was a very small plant and the weather was so dry I pinched it. However, DR. J. H. NEELEY was such an exceptionally vigorous one-year plant that I allowed it to bloom, and I must say that I have never seen a more promising bloom on so young a plant. It is white with a pink veil on first opening, the inner petals very faintly edged red. It is tall with a splendid stem, fine foliage, delicious perfume. And I am sure it will be immense as it was some seven inches this year. The bloom lasted a long time on the plant. Long may these three bear their mute but beautiful testimony to the glorious thing a true friendship may be. Grow them together in your garden and think of your friends and what a dreary world it would be without them. I venture to predict that Dr. J. H. Neeley will rank among the world's best, and let us hope the others will, too. Good & Reese have a great many very fine seedlings that have never been placed in commerce. Kunderd is listing a few this year. Good & Reese themselves have three others besides the two above. MRS. JOHN M. GOOD, FRANK E. GOOD and JOHN M. GOOD, the last of which has been out for several years. It is a very fine white tinted pink.

Last among the doubles I shall mention two peonies that I do not believe are in many gardens. Dr. Earnshaw, an English clergyman, now living in New York State, has given us these. DAPHNE is pale pink fading to white, very large, perfect form, splendid carriage, free bloomer; in short, it is a peony that is fully worthy its rating of 9.5, even if given on only one vote. POMPILIA is a pink of great beauty, rather pale, shading to white on the inner petals, which are long and narrow, very symmetrically placed in a large bloom of exquisite daintiness. There are few peonies of greater beauty than these two, and I hope they will be more generally grown and so get the recognition they so richly deserve. I am grateful to my friend, Mrs. William Crawford, of La Porte, Indiana, for my acquaintance with them.

Probably because I had such a large number of mature plants of Japanese and single peonies, their great value as garden subjects was particularly impressed on my mind this year. Nothing can make a more splendid showing in your border, in beds to themselves or as individual specimens than these beautiful types.

The individual flowers are as large as any coming from six to ten inches in diameter. If not disbudded, a single variety will bloom over a period of from two to three weeks, and by a judicious selection we can have them for eight weeks at least. Then again some of the most beautiful peonies belong to these two sections. They are becoming more popular every day, yet the report of the 1930 show of the American Peony Society which was held in Duluth, Minnesota, a city that prides itself on growing the very finest peonies in the world, shows only the few who had large collections made exhibits in the Japanese sections, and they were small collections, and not a single exhibit was staged in the classes for single peonies. Let us hope the people of that section will wake up to the beauties of these two classes and plant largely of them in the future, for they are certainly missing much of the pleasure of growing peonies when they pass the single and Japanese types by. For sheer loveliness, there is no peony that can surpass ISAMI JISHI, or, as it is generally written, ISANI GIDUI. This is no name at all, but a mistake, I am told, and the correct name should be Isami Jishi, which means Smiling Lion. This peony has very large round petals of the purest white with a center of pale yellow staminodes, carpels and stigmas almost the same color. Kelway's WHITE LADY, as we know it, is identical except for the color of the tips of the carpels. Good & Reese have a new one, GOOD'S GEM, that is said to be better, and Mrs. Massie tells me she has one that she thinks is better. If they are, they are "some peonies." EXQUISITE FIRST is a white that is almost as good. SHIRO SANGAI is also one of the very best whites. Of the near anemone type in which the guards, staminodes sometimes the tips of the carpels are all the same color, are CRYSTAL QUEEN and FUJI-MINE, almost identical, peonies of the purest white and of entrancing beauty. Dessert's JEANNE LAPENDRY is a white with long narrow very pale yellow staminodes that is very beautiful and greatly admired. YESO is a white with the staminodes tipped rose, and YOOCHINO-TSUKI is a lilac white with its staminodes tipped darker lilac, very distinct. In pale pinks, KUKENU-JISHI is probably the very best. INNOCENCE is almost as good. Both very tall upright peonies.

In the rose pinks and reds, the staminodes bear a great deal of the color of the guards, but the base and frequently the tips and edges are still yellow, which gives the flowers an indescribable glow that greatly enhances their beauty. Of the rose pinks we have three that stand at the top of the list of all Japs for quality. Of these, TAMATE-BOKU is considered the finest. It is a very large flower with immense guard petals of deep rose and long staminodes of the same heavily edged and tipped yellow, quite a late bloomer. AMA-NO-SODE has the same large guards with staminodes that are broader and foliage that is so fine that the plant is worth growing for that alone. TOKIO is taller, a little smaller, but equally as fine. The very new Mr. G. F. HEMERIK has similar coloring, is very late, very large and its foliage is very distinct. ANTWERPEN is another that will stand near the top. HENRI POTIN, one of Dessert's, is a pale rose pink that is very fine. Kelway's SIR HENRY STONE is lilac pink, tipped red, that is most distinct. FRANCOIS is a peculiar shade of rose pink different from anything I have ever seen, very tall and one of the showiest peonies in the garden. A very late one and one of un-

usual beauty is CENDRILLON, which name may be wrong. It is the color of *Edulis superba*, fading lighter, very large and extra good.

Probably the first Japanese type peony to receive general recognition in this country was MIKADO, a very brilliant red, splendid grower and as good as the best. It was brought from Japan in the exhibit of that country at the Chicago Fair in 1893 and fell into the hands of W. A. Peterson, whom we all remember as a great peony man. SOME-GANOKO is an immense dark red, while FUYAJO is darkest of all, almost a self color, with stamens tipped faintly white. CURRANT JAP, the color of ripe currants, is one of Mrs. Harding's finds and is certainly a very superb variety. KAMENO-KEGOROMO is very close to Mikado and almost as good. MRS. HOBART M. CABLE, put out by Mrs. William Crawford, is a very light red, a color that is not seen in any other peony, and a very showy flower. Auten's NIPPON BEAUTY is a new dark red that took the Brand prize for the best Jap at a recent show of the American Peony Society. It is a fine grower, increases rapidly and will be rated among the best. Desert's INSTITUTEUR DORAT is very different from any other. It is a brilliant dark red with a center almost anemone in type that grows for several days, but does not get the ragged appearance some varieties do. It will rate very high. This list by no means covers the good Japs. Almost any of them are worth growing.

There have been something like five hundred singles named and put into commerce, for nearly fifty per cent of which our friends Kelway and Son are responsible. I do not hesitate to say that we would be better off if only about fifty of these had been given names. In all colors there are many singles that are so nearly identical that no one could tell them apart. Names should only be given to flowers so different from others as to be rather easily distinguished. They should usually be sold under color only.

As the old stand-by in white, we have ALBIFLORA, THE BRIDE, also identical with LA FIANCEE, big, beautiful and cheap, every one should have it. WHITE JAPAN is equally as good, and WHITLEY MAJOR better. SHIRLEY WALKER is to all intents and purposes white as its pale pink fades very quickly. It is tall and splendid. ROSY DAWN is very similar. CATHERINE PARRY is a little darker pink and keeps some of its color. It is very early and as good as one could wish. Brand's new KRINKLED WHITE opens pink and fades to a splendid white. LE JOUR is usually considered the best white. It has very large overlapping petals and the flower reminds me much of our wild hibiscus, of course, without the purple center. Many say that Kelway's QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS is the finest white, but I cannot report on that yet. PRIDE OF LANGPORT is generally considered the finest pink, peach pink with good carriage. NELLIE is light rose pink fading almost white, and a beauty. Thurlow's HELEN is usually the earliest of any *sinensis* peony to bloom, is immense in flower and growth and rates the highest of any single, which it fully deserves. PINK DELIGHT is a new very pale pink that will be among the best. Auten's MISCHIEF is a very late bloomer and a beautiful soft pink, tall grower. I place it among the very best. Kelway's new ENGLISH ELEGANCE, very late, very large pale pink fading lighter, the side blooms being about as large as the central ones, in my opinion

will be ranked as one of the best. RABELAIS and SAGAROMO are two new excellent light pinks. Dessert's JEANNE ERNOULD opens a carmine pink and rapidly fades lighter. It is very large and one of the most beautiful. There are a great many brilliant pinks on the market. Of these, L'ETINCELANTE still holds its own as among the best. Brand's HARRIET OLNEY is right along with it, and KATORI-NAHIKO is neck and neck with the winner. Van Leeuwen's MR. THIM is very dark pink, almost a dull red. Immense in size, it makes a splendid landscape subject. The reds are legion. Of these, THE MOOR, quite an old one, is dark and fine as well as cheap. JAPPENSHA-IKKU is new and good. Auten's PRESTO is very tall with extraordinarily large flowers brilliant in color and very showy. Mr. Brand's FLANDERS FIELD is a brilliant pure red. When Dessert's VERDUN bloomed this year on a three-year-old plant, I said no other single red could touch it. It is of very sturdy growth, very large in size, long season of bloom, and a red of great brilliance. What more could we wish? Yet, when a few days later Mr. Brand's new PRESIDENT LINCOLN bloomed on a two-year-old plant, just as large, a little taller, just as brilliant, though a different shade, with a bloom that has three rows of guard petals instead of one, I said, "Can you beat it?" No. Both are the best; they are very distinct and one cannot take the place of the other. May we soon all have them. Wettengell's TOREADOR winds up the list and the season with its beautiful dark red flowers borne on good stems of fair height, and its place is secure.

And so we end the notes on varieties. Many have been omitted that could have been mentioned most favorably, but the ones I have noted seem to me to be the very best there are. Of course, I know others will not always agree, and it is better so. They are all beautiful. Would we could grow them all. I have tried to give a fair description of each one mentioned, with no misrepresentation. Their faults here are often not faults in more favorable climes. The late bloomers which do not open well here are almost invariably most robust growers.

Buyers from the North, South, East and West can select from my list with the full assurance that the roots will be as good as they can get anywhere. They are all as free from disease as it is possible for them to be. Some varieties are always diseased, and these have been mentioned often, and when such varieties are ordered the buyer must know that the roots are more than likely to have some disease, wherever he may get them, regardless of any representation to the contrary. My prices are as low as those of any grower in this country—and please note especially that there is no charge for packing or transportation. They are delivered free to your postoffice or express office as I may elect.

ATTRACTIVE DISCOUNT. Those who send me their orders within fifteen days from the receipt of the enclosed price list may deduct twenty per cent from the list price, except on Mr. Brand's fifty dollar peonies and the three special offers below. The prices in my 1929 list will prevail except as noted below. The order must amount to ten dollars or more.

PLANT SOMETHING NEW. You who can do so, order a root or more of the splendid new things offered. Have something different from your friends. All the new ones listed are exceptionally

good. They are worthy of a place in your garden, why not give it to them? You do it with other flowers, why not with peonies, too?

SINGLES AND JAPS. Do not forget these two types. Include some in your order. See the excellent offer of these types in named varieties if the choice is left to me. Get some by all means. You will never regret it.

SEND ME AN ORDER, PLEASE. I hope every one of you who can possibly do so will send me an order for peonies, however small. You need the peonies and I need the money. It is my principal means of support, and if I do not sell peonies starvation awaits me and mine.

On account of the exceptionally dry weather all over the country, peony roots may show some effects of it by being smaller and the number of eyes less. The best roots I can find will be sent to my customers, and they may rest assured they will grow. All roots are guaranteed true to name, but if a mistake is made I shall gladly replace them, but will not be responsible beyond the amount paid for them. If you do not see the variety you wish, write for it. I have nearly all in commerce and can usually supply anything desired.

SEND YOUR ORDER EARLY. Peonies will probably mature very early this year, so get in your order at once and get them in early and, better still, take advantage of the discount.

JAPANESE IRIS. I have several thousand roots of the best Japanese Iris. The price is twenty-five cents each. No order under a dollar at this price. Send me an order for them. Mention color if you like. If you do not they will be assorted.

BEARDED IRIS. I have a large number of exceptionally fine roots of some of the older Bearded Iris. Price, four dollars a hundred in ten varieties, ten roots of each. A hundred of any one variety for three dollars and a half. Fifty at the same rate.

SIBERIAN IRIS. I have a white and a blue, both fine, and will sell for four dollars a hundred, fifty for two dollars, or twenty-five for one dollar, either all one color or assorted.

SPECIAL PEONY SALE. Having a number of the older varieties and wishing to reduce my stock, I offer ten good roots of two or more eyes for two dollars and fifty cents, or twenty for five dollars.

SPECIAL OFFER OF JAPS AND SINGLES. Having a large number of these types too numerous to list, I offer them five for five dollars, my choice, all labeled. Mention type and color if you wish.

EXTRA SPECIAL UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15th. KELWAY'S GLORIOUS for five dollars good strong roots. This puts this best of all in the reach of all.

I find I have omitted my old friend Mrs. Pleas' JUBILEE, an immense white, very tall but weak stemmed, an exhibition flower of the highest rank, flat saucer-shaped blooms.

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS FOR 1930

My 1929 price list will apply, except for the following:

	Each
Albert King of the Belgians.....	\$.50
Alice Harding	50.00
Alsace Lorraine.....	1.00
Charlot	7.50
Cornelia Shaylor.....	5.00
Cuprea superba50
Daphne	15.00
Denise	15.00
Edwin C. Shaw.....	15.00
Gene Stratton Porter.....	15.00
Genevieve	10.00
Gloire de Touraine.....	.50
Grace Batson	15.00
Harry L. Richardson.....	15.00
Janes Oleson.....	15.00
Jeannot	5.00
John M. Good.....	15.00
La Hollande	5.00
Madame Edouard Doriat.....	5.00
Madame Escary	5.00
Madelon	5.00
Maman Millet	15.00
Marvel	10.00
Mary C. Wedge	10.00
Mary Woodbury Shaylor.....	3.00
Miss Brice50
Mora	10.00
Mrs. C. S. Minot.....	15.00
Mrs. Edward Harding.....	5.00
Mrs. Eugene Secor	10.00
Mrs. Henry Kalle.....	5.00
Nanette	5.00
Nehoiden	2.00
Odalisque	5.00
Pompilia	15.00
President Wilson.....	15.00
Reine Baronet	5.00
Sir T. J. Lipton.....	.50
Souvenir de A. Millet.....	10.00
Sylviane	5.00
Thomas C. Thurlow.....	15.00
Triomphe de L'Exposition de Lille.....	.50
Urano	10.00

JAPS

Henri Potin	5.00
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SINGLES

Jappensha-Ikku	5.00
Katori-Nahiko	5.00
Purple Cup	5.00
Rabelais	5.00
Sagaromo	5.00
Winnebago Chief	5.00

Note the very low prices on the fine new peonies.

